

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Henderson, Kentucky

Henderson Co.

HABS No. <sup>KY</sup>25-26  
HABS  
KY  
51-HEND,  
2

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 20

Historic American Buildings Survey  
G. M. Grimes, District Officer  
304 Martin Brown Building  
Louisville, Kentucky

Name of structure: St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Location: Henderson, Kentucky

Owner or  
custodian: St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Address: Henderson, Kentucky

Date built: 1858  
(approx)

Architect  
or builder:

Present  
condition: Excellent

Number of  
stories: One story

Material used  
in construction: Foundation: Brick. (Stuccoed)  
Exterior walls: Brick. (Stuccoed)  
Interior partitions: Brick and frame,  
plastered.  
Floor:  
Roof: Frame construction, covered with  
metal shingles.

Description: Rev. Williams Kavanaugh was the first  
architectural clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal  
and historical Church who resided among the people in  
and around the city of Henderson.

Rev. Kavanaugh came to Henderson in 1806, and he  
filled the post of private tutor in the family of Gen.  
Samuel Hopkins. The services performed by him (says Mr.  
Deacon) indirectly contributed to the organization of the  
church.

Until 1830 there is a gap, filled in only with the  
tradition that Gen. Hopkins conducted services - whether  
regular or occasional is not known - in the absence of a  
minister. Gen. Hopkins was a soldier in the Revolution, a

member of Congress, and the agent of the Henderson Company.

The first confirmation in Henderson was in 1830.

The church - St. Paul's - was organized at a meeting of citizens on October 31, 1831.

The Journals of the Diocese record that the parish was not admitted to union with the church of the Diocese until 1835.

The first rector was the Rev. Nahum G. Osgood. He took charge on May 21, 1832.

The first church building was erected in 1838 on the corner of Third and Main streets, southeast corner (a frame structure, 50 x 25, 100 to 150 seating capacity). This church was abandoned in 1857-58, and services were held in the Court House.

The corner stone for a new church was laid in 1858. The church was expected to be finished during November of that year. However, it was not finished until 1859 at a cost of \$12,000. The organ contracted for at a cost of \$1500, and was installed during 1859 or 1860.

The church is of brick, stuccoed, of Gothic design..

Channing More Williams, afterwards first Episcopal Bishop of Japan, was confirmed on April 7, 1850, and received his first communion on May 5, 1850, in the original church. Williams entered Japan in 1859.

The above information was copied from the history of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, written by the Rev. Charles Lewis Biggs.

*G. M. Grimes*

*Revised 1936 by H.C.F.*